

to \$10 an hour by 2016. In New Jersey, voters approved a constitutional amendment to increase the minimum wage. In Maryland, the county councils in Montgomery and Prince George's counties both voted to increase the minimum wage to \$11.50, higher than any rate currently in effect in the United States.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act—H.R. 1010—would increase the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour over three years and then index it to inflation. I am one of 150 cosponsors of this bill.

It is time for Congress to debate the issue of raising the minimum wage, as well as other policies to address the growing wage gap in our country. This debate must take place in full view of the American public.

Increasing the minimum wage will send a clear signal to Americans that we understand that the benefits of growth and free trade need to be more broadly shared in society. It's the right thing to do morally, economically, and politically.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACADEMY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

##### HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy for Information Technology of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. The Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and the Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

#### HONORING MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH CEMETERY

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historically significant polyandrium within the Bolton community, the Mount Olive Church Cemetery.

With its beginnings dating well into the early 1800s, the Mount Olive Church Cemetery originated as the Fork Hill Cemetery, located at the intersection of Joe Hall Road and Mount Olive Road in Bolton, Mississippi. The cemetery was later moved and renamed the Mount Olive Cemetery in the late 1800s. For over 200 years, this cemetery has served as the final sepulture for so many in the Bolton community, especially for African Americans.

Generations of families, many of whom were not members of the Mount Olive Mis-

sionary Baptist Church (who maintains the cemetery) have been laid to rest in this cemetery. Because of the enforcement of segregation laws, the prospect of African Americans to seek burial of loved ones in appropriate, designated burial grounds was sometimes a far-fetched and difficult task. Unlike their White counterparts, African Americans would at times have to resort to burying their loved ones in non-traditional sites located outside of a designated cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mount Olive Church Cemetery for providing and remaining a historically significant sacred final resting grounds for so many African Americans during a period of legal segregation. Its historical significance serves as an important tool for reflection for those who experienced such segregation as well as for future generations to honor and cherish within the Bolton community.

#### BATAVIA CLAIMS FIRST STATE FOOTBALL TITLE IN "BATTLE OF THE BULLDOGS"

##### HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Batavia High School Bulldogs for winning their first-ever Illinois state football championship.

On Saturday, November 30 Batavia faced off against Richards High School—which shares the same nickname—in an epic "Battle of the Bulldogs."

At NIU's Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, an estimated 12,000 Batavia fans roared as quarterback Micah Coffey threw for two touchdowns, and running back Anthony Scaccia ran for three more.

Both teams fought hard but Batavia prevailed, capping their virtually undefeated season with a 34–14 victory.

I commend Coach Dennis Piron and the entire Bulldogs team for the hard work that went into a strong 13–1 season and the IHSA Class 6A State Championship.

Go Bulldogs!

#### IN HONOR OF THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S PLACE AND ITS MISSION TO CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN LOUISVILLE, KY

##### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, for the past 130 years, Family & Children's Place has been a leader in providing support to Louisville-area families living in crisis and developing national models for service to improve children's academic performances and home lives.

Family & Children's Place was established in 1883 to help feed, clothe, and shelter families in need. Since then, it has evolved to meet new needs and challenges facing chil-

dren and families affected by abuse, neglect, and violence.

The organization was among the first in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to recognize the growing problem of child abuse and neglect, and responded by doubling its efforts to ensure at-risk families and those affected have the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive in a safe environment. It has continued to play an instrumental role by establishing the only comprehensive child-friendly treatment and evaluation center for sexually-abused children in the Louisville region.

Nationally, Family & Children's Place has created model programs to help teach parenting skills to first-time parents, improve academic success rates for children, reduce the incidence of drug abuse, and ensure stable housing and self-sufficiency for families at risk of homelessness.

Today, Family & Children's Place serves a 17-county region encompassing Louisville, Southern Indiana, and the surrounding area. Last year alone, the organization provided assistance to more than 6,500 children and family members, and was able to end the cycle of child abuse for another 1,200 children.

Mr. Speaker, as Family & Children's Place embarks on its 131st year of remarkable service, I am confident it will continue to strengthen our community by inspiring and empowering others through its exceptional work.

Congratulations to Dan Fox, CEO of Family & Children's Place; Pam Darnell, President; Bill Meyer, Chairman of the Board; and to all the employees and volunteers on 130 years of dedicated service to our community.

#### HONORING WILLIAM FRANCIS

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Francis upon his retirement as a District Attorney Investigator for the County of Napa. I thank Mr. Francis for his more than twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, during which time his commitment to improving the safety and well-being of the Napa community is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Mr. Francis began his career in public service in 1981 as a reserve police officer with the City of St. Helena. He then went on to work as a Napa County Sheriff's Deputy in 1985 before beginning his career as an Assistant District Attorney Investigator for the County of Napa in 1997.

Mr. Francis has also been involved with a wide variety of organizations dedicated to improving the wellbeing of the Napa community. He has been a member of the California Sexual Assault Investigator's Association, California Homicide Investigator's Association, Napa County Homicide Task Force, Tri County Investigator's Association, Western State's Livestock Investigator's Association, California Safe and Burglary Association, Governor's Rural Crime Prevention Task Force and the California Crime Prevention Officer's Association. He is currently a member of the California District Attorney Investigator's Association as well as the National Senior Pro-Rodeo